

Proclamation

by

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, Birth defects are common, costly and critical, and can occur in any Kentucky family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history, economic status or level of education; and
- WHEREAS, While many unknown factors play a role in birth defects occurrence, steps can be taken to help prevent birth defects by limiting certain risks, such as exposure to chemicals in the home or at work, use of alcohol and street drugs, a lack of folic acid in a woman's diet, lack of prenatal care and infections during pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS, Birth defects are a leading cause of death in the first year of life, causing one in every five infant deaths in Kentucky and in the nation; and
- WHEREAS, Early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child's quality of life and may even save his or her life; and
- WHEREAS, Taking steps to avoid infections during pregnancy can reduce the chance that a child is born with a birth defect; and
- WHEREAS, The good health and well-being of the people of Kentucky is enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about strategies to prevent birth defects; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky Department for Public Health and the Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry join with the March of Dimes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Birth Defects Prevention Network, as well as many dedicated volunteers, healthcare professionals and parent groups by participating in this promotion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW G. BEVIN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2017, as

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

in Kentucky.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 29th day of December, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen and in the 225th year of the Commonwealth.


MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR


ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE

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ALISON L. FERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

R. Allen